Indian Abroad

3814. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA:
SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH:
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH:
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Indians living in the countries with which India is having diplomatic relations;

(b) whether any regular census is conducted for such migrant Indians;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to provide them right of franchise in Parliamentary elections; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) There are approximately fourteen million Indians living in countries with which India has diplomatic relations.

(b) No, Sir. No regular census is conducted for such migrant Indians.

(c) and (d). There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to provide these Indians the right of franchise in Parliamentary elections. Under the existing law, for a person to be entitled to be registered as a voter in a particular constituency, one of the requirements is that he/she should be ordinarily resident of that constituency. In certain cases, where persons are forced to remain away from their home constituency by the compulsion of their office under the Government of India and in public interest, provision has been made for enrolment of such persons by treating them as ordinary resident of the constituency where they would have resided but for compulsion of their office under the Government of India. Therefore, there is no justification under existing law to grant right of franchise to those who are normally not resident in their constituency out of their own volition and in their own personal private interest. It may also be pointed out that the basic concept of direct elections from territorial constituencies envisages a direct nexus between the voter and the constituency from where he/she intends to vote and this nexus arises by reason of his/her ordinary residence in the constituency. In addition, there would be practical difficulties in extending voting rights to Indian citizens living abroad.

[English]

Olympic Games

3815. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had taken effective steps for participating in Atlanta Olympics;

(b) whether the Indian Olympics Association had started preparation for Olympic games on time;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve performance of Indian players in future competitions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN R.): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The process of imparting training to the sport persons and teams is undertaken in consultation with the Sports Authority of India and concerned National Sports Federations as part of Long Term Development Plans. Coaching camps, equipment, scientific support, competition exposure is provided to the players as per the approved programme and the same are reviewed from time to time.

(d) The steps that the Government have taken to improve the performance of Indian players in future competitions include:--

(i) Formulation of Long Term Development Plans for each discipline in consultation with the concerned Federations.

(ii) Continuous dialogue with Private and Public Sector Companies to increase their investment in Sports, both in infrastructure as also in development of sports academies.

(iii) Better monitoring of the proposals of infrastructure is being done to ensure that limited resources are not spread too thinly.

(iv) Action has also been initiated to bring Sports on the concurrent list. At present Sports is a State subject.

Mentally and Physically Handicapped Person

3816. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: